

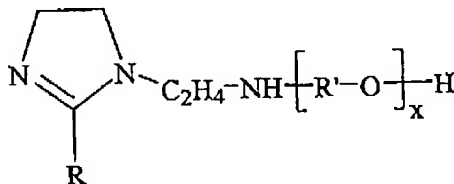
February 2, 2004  
Page 2

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the specification as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid having utility in subterranean wells, said fluid comprising:  
an oleaginous fluid; and  
a solids suspension agent having the formula:



wherein R is a C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> aliphatic group and R' is a C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>6</sub> aliphatic group and x has a value from about 1 to about 10; and  
a non-oleaginous fluid.

2. (Original) The fluid of claim 1, wherein R' is selected from ethyl and isopropyl.
3. (Original) The fluid of claim 1 wherein R is unsaturated.
4. (Original) The fluid of claim 1 wherein said oleaginous fluid comprises from about 30% to about 99% by volume of said fluid.
5. (Original) The fluid of claim 1 wherein said oleaginous fluid further comprising from about 5% to about 100% by volume of the oleaginous fluid of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof.

February 2, 2004  
Page 3

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fluid of claim-6- 1 wherein said non-oleaginous fluid comprises from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said fluid.

8. (Currently Amended) The fluid of claim-6- 1 wherein said non-oleaginous fluid is selected from the group consisting of sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The fluid of claim 1 further comprising a weighting agent or a bridging agent.

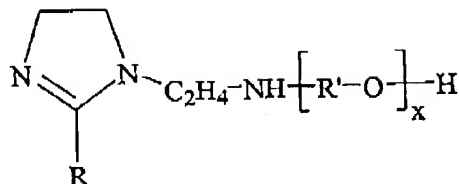
10. (Original) The fluid of claim 9 wherein the weighting or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, dolomite, siderite, barite, celestite, iron oxides, manganese oxides, ulexite, carnalite, sodium chloride and combinations thereof

11. (Original) An invert emulsion fluid having utility for drilling, completing, or working over subterranean wells, said fluid comprising:

- a) an oleaginous liquid, said oleaginous liquid comprising from about 30% to about 99% by volume of said fluid;
- b) a non-oleaginous liquid, said non-oleaginous liquid comprising from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said fluid; and
- c) an solids suspension agent present in said fluid at a concentration of about 0.1% to 5.0% by weight of said fluid, said solids suspension agent having the formula:

February 2, 2004  
Page 4

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)



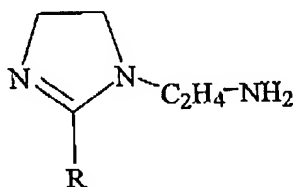
wherein R is a C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> aliphatic group and R' is a C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>6</sub> aliphatic group and x has a value from about 1 to about 10.

12. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 11 wherein R' is selected from ethyl and isopropyl.
13. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 11 wherein R is unsaturated.
14. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 11 wherein said oleaginous fluid further comprising from about 5 to about 100% by volume of the oleaginous fluid of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, a synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, dialkylcarbonates, hydrocarbons, and combinations thereof.
15. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 11 wherein said non-oleaginous liquid is selected from the group consisting of sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.
16. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 11 wherein R is unsaturated.

February 2, 2004  
Page 5

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)

17. (Currently Amended) A fluid having utility in subterranean wells, said fluid comprising:  
an oleaginous fluid; ~~and~~  
a solids suspension agent that is the product of the reaction of an alkylene oxide  
with an imidazoline of a fatty acid having the formula



wherein R is a C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> aliphatic group; and  
a non-oleaginous fluid.

18. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 wherein the imidazoline is the reaction product of a condensation reaction of a C<sub>6</sub> to C<sub>20</sub> fatty acid and diethyltriamine.
19. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkylene oxides.
20. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.
21. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 wherein the molar ratio of imidazoline to alkylene oxide is from about 2:1 to about 1:10.

February 2, 2004  
Page 6

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)

22. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 wherein said oleaginous fluid comprises from about 30% to about 99% by volume of said fluid.

23. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 wherein said oleaginous fluid further comprising from about 5% to about 100% by volume of the oleaginous fluid of a material selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, synthetic oil, esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, olefins, and combinations thereof.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The fluid of claim 24 17 wherein said non-oleaginous fluid comprises from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said fluid.

26. (Original) The fluid of claim 25 wherein said non-oleaginous fluid is selected from the group consisting of sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.

27. (Original) The fluid of claim 17 further comprising a weighting agent or a bridging agent.

28. (Original) The fluid of claim 27 wherein the weighting or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, dolomite, siderite, barite, celestite, iron oxides, manganese oxides, ulexite, carnalite, sodium chloride and combinations thereof.

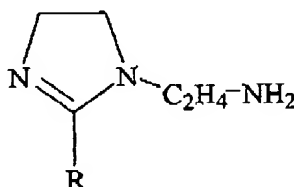
29. (Original) A method of forming a subterranean well, the method comprising

February 2, 2004  
Page 7

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)

drilling the subterranean well with a rotary drill bit and a drilling fluid; said drilling fluid including:

an oleaginous based continuous phase and  
a solids suspension agent that is the product of the reaction of an alkylene oxide  
with an imidazoline of a fatty acid having the formula



wherein R is a  $\text{C}_6$  to  $\text{C}_{20}$  aliphatic group.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ method of claim 29 wherein the imidazoline is the reaction product of a condensation reaction of a  $\text{C}_6$  to  $\text{C}_{20}$  fatty acid and diethyltriamine.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ method of claim 29 wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from  $\text{C}_2$  to  $\text{C}_4$  alkylene oxides.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ method of claim 29 wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ method of claim 29 wherein the molar ratio of imidazoline to alkylene oxide is from 2:1 to about 1:10.

Serial No.: 10/062854  
Confirmation No.: 1225  
Applicant: PATEL, Arvind, D.  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0720.NPUS00  
(PA-00115US)

- $$\text{N} \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \text{C} = \text{C} \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{N} \end{array} \text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{NH} \left[ \text{R}'\text{O} \right]_x \text{H}$$

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ method of claim 34 wherein R is unsaturated.